

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 9, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view of an embodiment of the reactor vessel taken from the circled area [[B]] III/IV in Fig. 2; and --

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 10, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

-- The gasification media are supplied by means of special burners which are attached to the burner flange 2, the burner flange being mounted on shell end 24. The crude gasification gas, if appropriate together with liquid slag, leaves the reaction chamber 1 via the fitting 3 in shell end 26, which fitting is provided with a special appliance, and the gas passes to further gas treatment steps. The gasification reactor is surrounded by the pressure shell 4, which withstands the difference in pressure between the reactor interior and the outside atmosphere. For thermal protection of the reactor vessel, there is a cooling system 15 which comprises cooling channels or conduits 5 defined by channel members 30. The conduits are supplied with water coolant and can be operated above or below the boiling point, which depends on the overall pressure. To prevent gasification gas from entering the cooling system 15 in the event of damage, the pressure of this system is always held at a higher level than the pressure in the reaction chamber 1. The relatively small dimensions of the cooling channels 5 allow their pressure to be maintained even when the reaction chamber 1 is depressurized to atmospheric pressure. Likewise, in the event of fluctuations in the pressure in the reaction chamber 1, the pressure in the cooling channels 5 can remain constant, provided the condition that it always be

higher than the pressure in the reaction chamber 1 is satisfied. In the direction of the reaction chamber 1, the cooling channels 5 are delimited by a refractory protective layer 6, which is applied as ramming compound and is held by pins or anchors, as illustrated, by way of example, as 11 in Fig. [[3]] 4 or 12 in Fig. [[4]] 3. The water coolant which is required in the cooling system 15 is supplied via supply piping 7 which is connected to common ends of the channel members 30, and is discharged as hot water or steam via outlet piping 8 which is connected to opposite ends of the channel members. --